

day points forward to the overthrow of individualism and competition. The strife may prove terrible but it is not endless.

The same struggle exists among the nations. They are all armed to the teeth and if war is wanting it is because each is afraid to begin. The small powers of the world are being crushed by the larger ones. Mechanical ingenuity is taxed to supply instruments of butchery. Individuals are heavily taxed to support those trained in the art of killing their fellows. But this shall not always last. The Peace Conference at the Hague if not powerful is at least ominous. There is a tint of light now above the horizon. The words of St. Paul are true now as when first spoken. "The whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together."

But St. Paul was no pessimist. He was an idealist altho not a visionary. That which was, was not that which always should be. Paul saw that God's purpose in creation was gradually being worked out. He believed that God was stronger than the devil and that the good was more potent than evil. He did not overlook the darker side of the civilization of his day. He was not an easy-going optimist. But when he made mention of the darker facts it was to point forward to a time when the shadows should flee away. He said:- "The creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the sons of God." He speaks also of a time when the body shall be redeemed. One element in the end of creation will be the complete elimination of the bestial and brutal. We are like some birds that are condemned to live in cages. We have aspirations heavenward but they are deflected by sensuality and passion. We are not what we would be. We cannot attain our ideals. The good we would do we do not do. Evil is ever present and powerful. St. Paul has given expression to the experience of the individual in this condition. We cry—

"O for a man to rise in me
That the man that I am might cease to be."

But is there no hope for the individual? Shall we never prevail? The Bible points forward to a time when the redemption of man's body will have been perfected and when the lower nature will have been mastered by the higher and spiritual. More and more this is being wrought out. The real student of history is never pessimistic. In view of what progress society has made toward this end, a veritable millennium is possible. If history is prophetic, if the revelations of science are of value we may anticipate a day when the brute will no longer master the man.

Another element in the end of creation will be man's perfect mastery over the forces of nature. Man was given dominion over the physical universe but only gradually is he assuming it. Jesus had perfect sovereignty over nature. He healed diseases, cured madness, made the winds and waves obey him, raised the dead etc. St. Paul

writes of a time when all men will have power to do what Jesus did. Because he did what men never did, it does not follow that men never will do so. The race is eventually to reach the fulness of stature in Jesus; then it will be able to do what he did. There are already hints of the coming of such a time. More and more we are bringing the powers of nature to do our work. Medical science has made progress almost incredible. Our messages are carried as quick as lightning by lightning. That same force that zizzags the summer sky and sends the thunder reverberating among the mountains is now harnessed and made to carry our burdens and bodies. Distance has been annihilated. Conveniences have been multiplied. This is not the same world our fathers lived in. And each day the marvels increase. Science speaks of a day, not very far away, when man's mastery over nature and physical force will attain the fulness of Christ. What then will be realized it is difficult to imagine; but it will certainly be a great and glorious thing to be no longer hampered by matter, space and force.

It must thus be seen that Jesus Christ is the typical man and that the end of creation is the making of a world of men like him. In him we are not only the manifestation of God but the perfection of man. He was the type of the race. In him is set forth what the race was intended to be by its Creator and what it will be when creation is completed. He is the end toward which humanity is tending. In him is seen the divine program for each individual. What he was the world of men is to be. In him we behold the one man in whom the animal was in complete subservience to the spiritual. He realized the highest ideal of individual life. We never find him carried away by passion and prejudice. There is no instance of thoughtlessness in his whole life. No act of his was performed hastily or rashly. He never makes apologies. He never prayed "We have erred and strayed from thy way like lost sheep; we have done the things we ought not to have done." He always did what he ought to have done. He too was the one that had all the knowledge and the wealth of the world. He was the one man that could command the whole universe. And finally he was the man whose supreme ideal of life was the service of humanity. All his power and knowledge was used in the behalf of others. An unkind or an ungenerous word never escaped his lips. He never thought or planned for self. He was the friend of publicans and sinners. He never had an enemy and yet he rebuked the wrong doer everywhere. He died to save the men that neither understood him nor appreciated him. He never turned away from people that were poor or forbidding. And this is the ideal man toward whom all men tend and in whom the race shall be perfected.

Then shall the supreme end come. A perfect society can be made up of perfect individuals only. The perfect solidarity of society

shall then be realized. Then shall come the union of the human and divine! Then all men shall become one even as Jesus prayed that they might be! Then the issue between church and state shall be forever settled! Then instead of trusts and monopolies organized to make the rich richer and the poor poorer; instead of the inventions and industries of men being used to the utmost in finding and employing means for the destruction of human life; instead of pride and class distinctions that tend to separate and make hostile those that should be brethren, instead of these things all men will become one even as the Father and the Son are one.

Jesus' prayers were prophecies. A perfect race in Jesus Christ will sometime walk earth's hills and vales. We may not see that Golden Age in the flesh but some day looking from heavenly heights we shall see no more a race groaning and travelling in pain but a glorified creation; and then shall we realize what Tennyson meant when he wrote:

"One far-off divine event
To which the whole creation moves."

and what St. Paul meant when he said, "Till we all come unto a perfect man unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ."

LITTLE SERMONS

ORA V. BAUMAN

John B. Gough, one of the world's most famous temperance orators, was saved from a drunkard's grave by a kind hand being laid upon his shoulder and a friendly word spoken to him. Was it worth while?

Stay not until you are told of opportunities to do good; inquire after them.

The impression that a praying mother leaves upon her children is life-long. Pray when you are dead and gone your prayers will be answered.

Ex-President Garfield once said—"I never meet a ragged boy in the street without feeling that I owe him a salute, for I know not what possibilities maybe buttoned up under his coat."

Joan of Arc, was burned at the stake in the streets of heartless Rouen; but today her tragedy flames with triumph.

The halo and the laurel, both are hers and her name shines in virgin glory thru all the years. Not all who lose life, fail of life.

Polish on the heels of shoes, is a truer test of thoroughness, than the shine on the toes.

There is frequently more love in a frown than there could be in a smile. "As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten."

In order to grow in grace we must be much alone. It is not in society—that the soul grows most vigorously. In one single quiet hour of prayer, it will often make more progress than in days of company with others. It is in the desert that the dew falls freshest and the air is purest.

—H. Bonar.